

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS STATE 044006

FOLLOWING REPEAT BERN 0215 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ZURICH 16 JAN

QUOTE

UNCLAS BERN 0215

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ESTC, TSPA, SZ, XG

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR MUNITIONS CONTROL APPROVAL OF LICENSING  
AGREEMENT BETWEEN MCDONNELL DOUGLAS AND CONTRAVES AG  
(SWITZERLAND)

1. SPACE DEPARTMENT MANAGER OF CONTRAVES AG OF ZURICH  
HAS APPROACHED EMBASSY RE DRAFT LICENSE, AND PRODUCTION  
AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENTS FIRM HAS DISCUSSED  
WITH MCDONNELL DOUGLAS ASTRONAUTICS CO., HUNTINGTON BEACH,  
CALIFORNIA FOR PAYLOAD FAIRING SEPARATION SYSTEM INVOLVING  
EXPLOSIVES FOR USE IN ARIANE LAUNCH VEHICLE BEING  
DEVELOPED BY EUROPEAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION (ESRO).  
AGREEMENTS REPORTEDLY SUBMITTED TO OFFICE OF MUNITIONS  
CONTROL IN DECEMBER BY MCDONNELL DOUGLAS. CONTRAVES HOPES  
USG CAN GIVE APPROVAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT AGREE-  
MENTS CAN BECOME EFFECTIVE. FOLLOWING BACKGROUND INFORMATION  
MAY BE HELPFUL TO CONCERNED WASHINGTON AGENCIES.

2. CONTRAVES REP SAID USG APPROVAL HAD BEEN GIVEN LAST  
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SUMMER FOR EXPORT OF FINISHED FAIRING SEPARATION SYSTEMS

BY MCDONNELL DOUGLAS. HOWEVER, FRENCH SPACE AGENCY (CNES) WHICH APPARENTLY HAS KEY ROLE IN ARIANE PROJECTS ARGUED THAT CONTRAVES SHOULD DEVELOP EUROPEAN CAPABILITY FOR PRODUCTION PAYLOAD FAIRING SEPARATION SYSTEM OR ALTERNATIVELY DEMONSTRATE THAT, IN EVENT MCDONNELL DOUGLAS SHOULD CEASE PRODUCTION AND/OR USG SHOULD WITHDRAW OR FAIL RENEW EXPORT APPROVAL, CONTRAVES HAD CAPABILITY PRODUCE IN SWITZERLAND MCDONNELL DOUGLAS SYSTEM. CONTRAVES BELIEVES MCDONNELL DOUGLAS SYSTEM FULLY MEETS ARIANE REQUIREMENTS AND CHOSE LATTER COURSE WHICH WILL INVOLVE MANUFACTURE OF TWO SYSTEMS TO DEMONSTRATE ITS CAPABILITY AND THEREBY SATISFY CNES. IT PLANS PRODUCE REMAINDER FROM MCDONNELL DOUGLAS.

3. CONTRAVES AG IS PART OF OERLIKON-BUHRLE GROUP AND HAS BEEN PRIMARILY INVOLVED IN MILITARY PRODUCTION. MORE RECENTLY IT HAS DIVERSIFIED INTO SPACE, MEDICAL, AND OTHER INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS. FIRM HAS CLOSE RELATIONS WITH RAYTHEON, LOCKHEED, AND OTHER U.S. FIRMS AS WELL AS MCDONNELL DOUGLAS. U.S. SUBSIDIARIES ARE CONTRAVES - GOERTZ CORP., AND FECKER SYSTEMS, BOTH OF PITTSBURGH. FIRM ENJOYS EXCELLENT REPUTATION. (SEE WTDR AUGUST 1973)

4. WOULD APPRECIATE STATUS REPORT.  
DAVIS UNQUOTE KISSINTER

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